

GARMENT WITH SELECTABLE MITTENS

[0001] This invention is directed to garments and, more particularly, to an outer garment having an integral mitten construction on each sleeve selectable between functional and non-functional hand cover positions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Various garments have been proposed so as to provide a mitten for the hands of the wearer during cold weather or the like. Such devices include garments having gloves attached at the sleeve ends which can either cover or uncover the hands at the selection of the wearer. However, such garments have not disclosed mittens which are safely integrated into the garment when not in use. Moreover, when in use past garments have covered the hands which inhibited the easy grasping of articles by the wearer.

[0003] In response thereto I have provided an outer garment having a cuff construction at the sleeve ends presenting a cuff panel which is foldable between a first open position and a second closed position covering the wearer's fingers. Accompanying the cuff construction is a separate thumb cover which can either be depressed or extended relative to the sleeve proper when not in use so as to cosmetically hide the thumb cover. Purchase surfaces are presented along the exterior mitten surfaces which enable the covered hand to easily grasp articles or the like.

[0004] Accordingly, it is a general object of this invention to provide a garment having a cuff construction for selectively presenting mittens to the wearer.

[0005] Another particular object of this invention is to provide a garment, as aforesaid, having a first mode in which the hands normally extend beyond the end of the sleeve and a second mode for covering the hands.

[0006] Still another object of this invention is to provide a garment, as aforesaid, having a separate thumb cover which can be selectively extended away from the sleeve for insertion of the thumb therein.

[0007] Another object of the invention is to provide a garment, as aforesaid, wherein the thumb cover may be selectively embedded beneath the sleeve or extends along the sleeve so as to enhance the cosmetic appearance of the garment.

[0008] A further object of this invention is to provide a garment, as aforesaid, having purchase surfaces selectively presented at the ends thereof which allow the covered hands of the wearer to grasp objects.

[0009] Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein is set forth by way of illustration and example, a now preferred embodiment of this invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Fig. 1 is a view showing the cuff construction on a sweatshirt or the like;

[0011] Fig. 2 is a view showing the cuff construction at one end of a sleeve with the cuff panel being at the open position and the thumb cover being extended along the sleeve;

[0012] Fig. 3 is a view as in Fig. 2 showing the initial movement of the cuff panel from its Fig. 2 open to its Fig. 4 closed, hand covering position;

[0013] Fig. 4 is a view as in Figs. 2 and 3 showing the cuff panel at a hand covering position;

[0014] Fig. 5 is a view of the cuff construction at the Fig. 4 position showing a purchase surface for enhancing article pick up;

[0015] Fig. 6 is a view of the cuff construction in the Fig. 4 position showing a purchase surface on the thumb cover; and

[0016] Fig. 7 is a view showing the thumb cover is in its depressed position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] Turning more particularly to the drawings, Fig. 1 shows a sweatshirt 100 with sleeves 110, each sleeve 110 including a cuff construction 200 at the end thereof. The sleeve 110 presents an open end. At this open end is sewn the cuff construction 200 presenting a ribbed extension 228 of the sleeve. Cuff assembly 200 utilizes a flexible, ribbed extension 228 the ribs presenting a surface having greater friction than the garment material. A foldable panel 232 of the same material includes first and second longitudinal edges 234, 235 extending along the sleeve 110 and first and second lateral edges 236, 237 traversing the sleeve. Panel 232 covers only one half of the circumference of the sleeve. Edge 236 may be integral with or sewn along the end 229 of the sleeve extension 228 with edge 237 being a free edge longitudinally displaced therefrom. Upon sewing panel 232 edges 234, 235 to the sleeve extension, fold lines 234' and 235' are presented along the intersection of these edges 234, 235 with the sleeve extension.

[0018] Panel 232 cooperates with portion 228a of the sleeve extension 238 to present a pocket 282 therebetween. The fold lines 234', 235' and integral edge 236 allow panel 232 to be folded about between a first Fig. 2 and a second Fig. 4 position with the intermediate position being shown in Fig. 3. In the Fig. 2 open position a wearer's hand may pass through the open end of the sleeve extension 228 whereas in the Fig. 4 closed position the open end is covered by the panel 232. Panel 232 is now on the opposed side of the sleeve having been folded from its Fig. 2 to its Fig. 4 position. Thus, panel 232 at its Fig. 2 position to present pocket 282 is now on the opposed side of the sleeve 228 forming a pocket with the opposed half of sleeve extension 228.

[0019] Also included along the sleeve is a thumb cover 280 which at the open position can either be tucked into the pocket 282 formed between the folding panel 232 and

extension 228 (Fig. 2) or can be depressed underneath the sleeve (Fig. 7). Thus, the thumb cover can be safely integrated into the garment 100 when not in use and not degrade the overall appearance of the garment.

[0020] When the cuff assembly 200 is in a hand cover position (Fig. 4) a gripping surface 290 is presented along the finger cover portion 228a as shown in Fig. 5. Also, a purchase surface 292 on the thumb cover 280 is presented when removed from the pocket 282 or from beneath the sleeve as shown in Fig. 6. These surfaces may be a fake suede, a roughened or tacky surface or any other surface that enhances purchase with articles. By the use of such surfaces I have found that the user may more securely grasp objects when the cuff construction 200 is in its hand cover position (Fig. 4).

[0021] Accordingly, I have found that my construction presents not only a functional garment for selectively covering the hands but also allows the covered hands to easily grasp articles whether the cuff construction is in an open or closed position. Moreover, my construction also provides a separate thumb cover which can be selectively integrated with the article so as to not degrade the cosmetic appearance of the garment when the cuff assembly 200 is not at its closed position.

[0022] It is to be understood that while certain forms of this invention have been illustrated and described, it is not limited thereto, except in so far as such limitations are included in the following claims and allowable equivalents thereof.